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## **CHAIRMAN JAMES RAMOS TO CONTINUE LEADERSHIP OF SAN MANUEL**

### ***Incumbents are re-elected to San Manuel Business Committee***

**San Manuel Indian Reservation (Highland, Calif.) - March 15, 2010** – The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians electorate re-elected James Ramos as chairman in tribal elections on Saturday, March 13. Ramos ran unopposed in this election.

“I am humbled by the election results from the people of San Manuel,” said Chairman Ramos, who was re-elected to a second term. “Our tribal government continues to move forward in meeting the needs of the citizens of San Manuel. I will continue to work with the Business Committee and the General Council to strengthen our government and community so that we can secure a bright future for generations of Yuhaviatam people yet to come.”

All other incumbents were also re-elected to their offices, including San Manuel Vice Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena, Audrey Martinez as San Manuel Business Committee Treasurer, and Larry Hernandez as an at-large member of the San Manuel Business Committee.

“Elected office in any situation demands a lot of one’s time,” Valbuena said. “But it comes with great reward as we have an opportunity to make a difference in our community. I am grateful for the chance to serve our tribe and people.”

The San Manuel Business Committee is comprised of seven members, including the chairman, vice chairman, secretary, treasurer, and three at-large members. The tribe’s General Council, which includes all members 21-years and older, are eligible to vote in tribal elections.

Martinez was elected to the office of treasurer for a third consecutive term. She has been involved with national Indian policy issues for a number of years, including serving as San Manuel representative to the National Congress of American Indians.

“The opportunity to serve San Manuel as treasurer has been a wonderful experience,” said Martinez. “San Manuel has become a leader among Indian nations in tribal economic development, and I look forward to continuing that work.”

San Manuel also elected Hernandez to another term as an at-large member of the Business Committee.

“This is my third term as an at-large member of the San Manuel Business Committee,” added Larry Hernandez. “We have a number of challenges as a tribal government, but with sound leadership and hard work, we can achieve great things.”

Among the priorities of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is developing and maintaining strong, mutually-beneficial relationships with other governments. The tribe also works to positively impact the greater community by its support for social and economic development.

#### **About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, California. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys, and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as a sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Despite challenges and hardships, the San Manuel Tribal community has continued to progressively maintain and enhance its unique form of government – focusing all efforts on providing a better quality of life for its citizens. Through economic diversification, both on and off the reservation, the tribe has been forward thinking in its efforts to build infrastructure, maintain civil services and promote social, economic, educational, and governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment and continues to pursue opportunities for future generations. Please visit [www.sanmanuel-nsn.gov](http://www.sanmanuel-nsn.gov) for more information.

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